

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Fair Hill Covered Bridge Survey Number: CE-238

Project: Rehabilitation of the Bridge Agency: DNR

Site visit by MHT Staff: no ☒ yes Name LLB and CVD Date 07-31-91

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility **not** recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

Constructed in the mid-nineteenth century, the Fair Hill Covered bridge is a fine representative of a Burr arch truss covered bridge, one of four remaining in Maryland. (Gilpin Falls, CE Co., Jerusalem HA Co., Utica Bridge, FR Co.) The most common covered bridge type in the nineteenth century, the Burr arch truss was patented in 1802 by Theodore Burr. The arch truss withstood greater loads and could accommodate wider spans than its wooden counterparts. The covered bridge has become extremely rare in Maryland today due to the later technological advances in bridge design and materials, natural deterioration and human destruction. The Fair Hill Covered Bridge retains a high degree of integrity in its design, location, setting, workmanship still intact.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Inventory and the DNR historic sites survey, 1980

Prepared by: John Hnedak

Lauren L. Bowlin
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

February 14, 1992
Date

R. Andrews N.A. agrees

18 Feb 92

gms

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- ☒ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
☐ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☒ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☐ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
☐ Unknown Period (☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- ☐ Subsistence
☐ Settlement
☐ Political
☐ Demographic
☐ Religion
☐ Technology
☐ Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☐ Religion
☐ Social/Educational/Cultural
☒ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

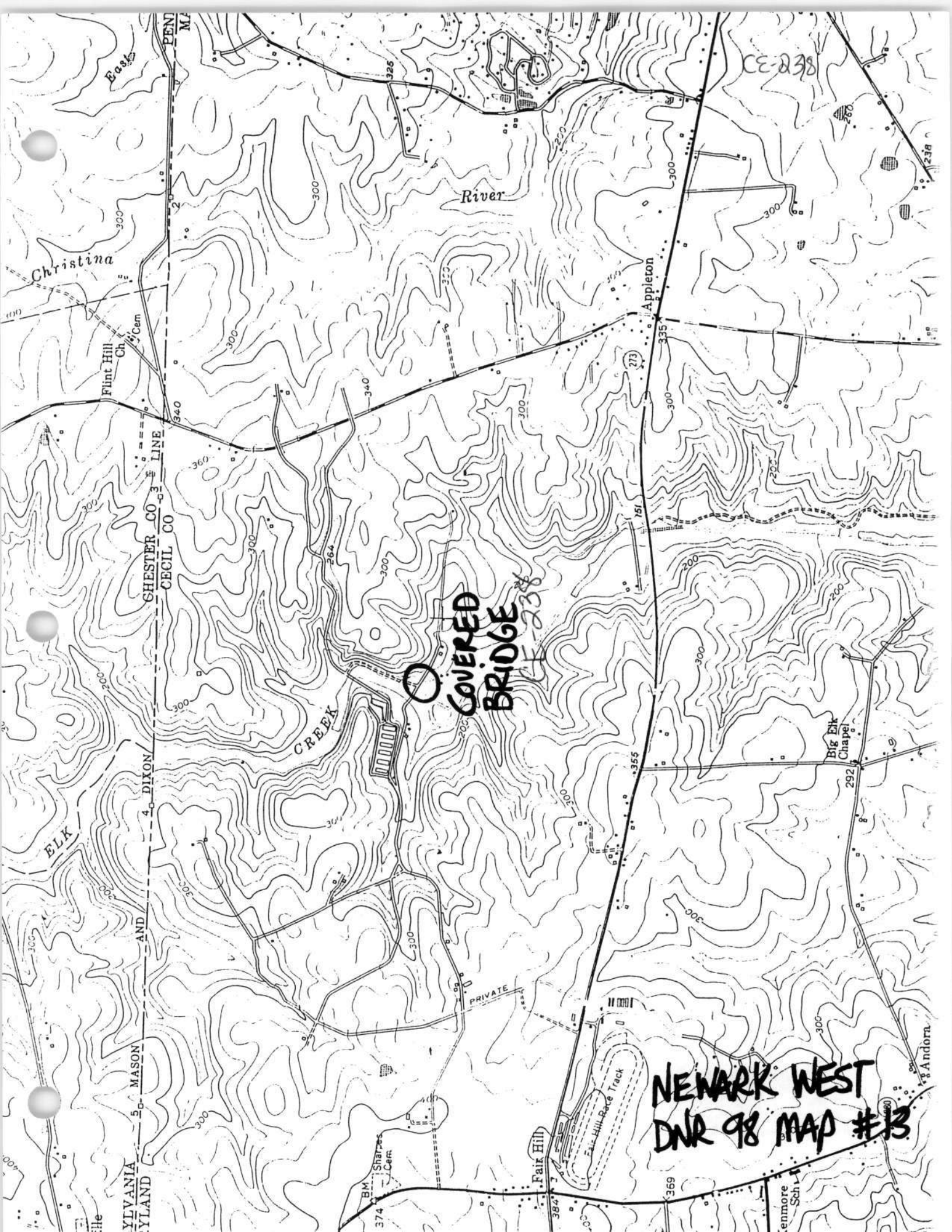
Category: StructureHistoric Environment: RuralHistoric Function(s) and Use(s): TransportationKnown Design Source: NA

Inventory Number: CE-238
Covered Bridge on Big Elk Creek
Cecil County, MD
C. Mazurek
June 1998
Section 7.1

Addendum

The Covered Bridge on Big Elk Creek is located in Cecil County in the Fair Hill N.R.M.A. It can be reached by following the dirt access road that runs through the Management Area from the entrance on Lewisville Road, that runs east. This bridge is north of Maryland route 273.

The Covered Bridge on Big Elk Creek is in excellent condition after recently being restored. Along with the restoration a wooden fishing pier was added to the north side of the bridge.



COVERED
BRIDGE

NEWARK WEST
DNR 98 MAP #13



CE-238
BIG ELK CREEK COVERED BRIDGE; FAIR HILL N.R.M.A.
CECIL COUNTY, MD
C. MAZUREK
12/97
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
S.W. ELEVATION

105 0561 X X X X X-03 2



CE-238

Big ELK CREEK COVERED BRIDGE; FAIR HILL N.R.M.A.
CECIL COUNTY, MD

C. MAZUREK

12/97

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
INTERIOR (FACING EAST)

105 0561 N N N N 92 2



CE-238

Big ELK CREEK COVERED BRIDGE ; FAIR HILL N.R.M.A.
CECIL COUNTY, MD

C. MAZUREK

12/97

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

N.W. ELEVATION

23 106 0361 N N N N 05 2



LOAD
LIMIT
2 TONS

CE-238

Big ELK Creek Covered Bridge, FAIR Hill N.R.M.A

CECIL COUNTY, MD

C. MAZUREK

12/97

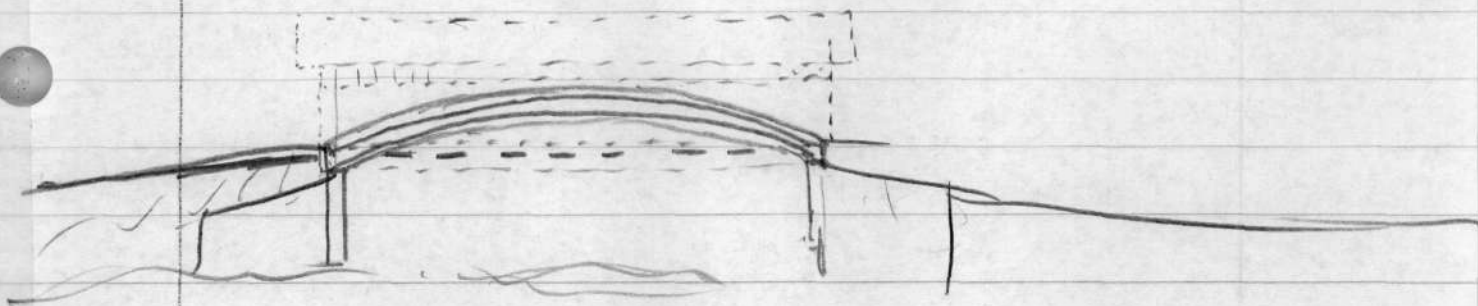
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WEST ELEVATION

05 105 0661 N N N N N N 2

1. STATE Maryland		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY	
COUNTY Cecil		INVENTORY CE-238	
TOWN Fair Hill VICINITY		2. NAME Covered Bridge on Big Elk Creek	
STREET NO.		DATE OR PERIOD 19th Century	
ORIGINAL OWNER		STYLE	
ORIGINAL USE Bridge		ARCHITECT	
PRESENT OWNER		BUILDER	
PRESENT USE Bridge		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
WALL CONSTRUCTION frame			
NO. OF STORIES			
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION			
OPEN TO PUBLIC NO			
<p>Courtesy of William Shelton, Mgr.</p> <p>The Big Elk Creek Covered Bridge appears to date from the end of the 19th. Century and is constructed like a large frame barn, with the added segmentally arched span composed of several straight members from which the "building" is supported between the stone buttresses.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE			
Endangered NO Interior good Exterior good			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
7. PHOTOGRAPH			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER	
Visited and photographed by Michael O. Bourne, 11/12/71		DATE OF RECORD	

COVERED BRIDGE over Big Elk Creek.



The Big Elk Creek Covered Bridge appears to date from the end of the 19th Century and is constructed like a large frame barn, with the added segmentally arched span composed of several straight members from which the "building" is supported between the stone buttresses.

MRB

11/15/71

Visited & photographed by MRB 11/12/71

Courtesy of William Shelton, Mgr.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Covered Bridge on Big Elk Creek

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North of Md. Route 273 on Big Elk Creek

CITY, TOWN

Fairhill

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☒ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Maryland, Dept. of Natural Resources Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Tawes State Office Building

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A heavy-timber framed covered bridge spanning Big Elk Creek about one mile north of Maryland Route 273. Most of the structure is mortised and tenoned, the framing technique reminiscent of barn construction. Most timber is rough-hewn, including the segmented arch of six cords which runs from stone abutment to stone abutment, and is connected to the superstructure frame with bolts. Parts of the framing are spliced and bolted together, including the long horizontal beams which span the abutments and support the deck. The side walls rise to within a foot of the roof, leaving a clerestory the length of the bridge on either side. The roof itself is gabled, ridge on the long axis. The gable ends are clapboarded, with a three sided opening above the road and taper to the end posts. There are simple wooden finials at either end of the ridge.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

middle 19th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

One of the few remaining wooden covered bridges in the state, one of _____ remaining in Cecil county. The age of the bridge is uncertain, especially in that it has obviously been shorn and restructured over the years. The barn-style framing is more than would have been necessary to hold up the roof and walls, and may represent the original structure. The corded arch is certainly early, but may have been an attempt to add strength to the structure. The splicings at various points are done with steel bolts and bolts and nuts which suggest some relatively recent attempts at rescue. There has been a bridge at this crossing since at least the 1850's. The existence of farmsteads on either side of and adjacent to Big Elk Creek at this crossing since the early 19th century argue for an even earlier date, but the framing techniques of the apparently oldest parts of the bridge are similar to those of the post-bellum period. The bridge is a smaller version of the Gilpin Falls Bridge.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bourne, M.O., 1971 notes
 1858 Martenet map
 1877 Cecil County Atlas

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

N/A

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John D. Hnedak, DOT Survey

1978/79

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Recommendations:

The bridge is very probably eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and should be nominated. Its significance is undeniable, and the structure deserves the highest priority for its preservation. No changes whatsoever should be made without first consulting representative of the Maryland Historical Trust.

PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND

5 MASON

AND

4 DIXON

CHESTER CO. 3 LINE
Cecil Co

DNR- McCLEARY HOUSE
CE-771

BUNTING HOUSE
CE

DNR-33 SCHOOL HOUSE
CE-758

DNR-1617 BARN, FEED MILL

DNR-28 MCMASTER HOUSE
CE-362

DNR-13 HAY LOFT
CE-300-C

DNR-47 BARN
CE-364-A

DNR-45 HOUSE
CE-364

DNR-50
NEW COVERED BRIDGE

DNR-03, 93, TRACK STRUCTURES
CE-552

DNR-103 CLUB
CE-75

DNR 90-102 TRACK
STRUCTURES CE-552

DNR-04 FINLEY BARN
CE-301-A

DNR-03 CARP TAKERS
HOUSE

DNR-02 FINLEY HSE
CE-301

DNR-12 SMOKE HOUSE
CE-300-13

DNR-10 BEERS HOUSE
CE-300-

DNR-11 BEERS BARN
CE-300-A

DNR-01 COVERED
BRIDGE CE-550

DNR-72 HOUSE CE-544

DNR 51 HOUSE

DNR 53 STABLES

DNR 56 STONE HOUSE CE-363

DNR 64 STONE STABLES CE-366

SCOTT MILL DAM

TYSON HOUSE
CE-527

GAYLEN HOUSE
CE-517

COVERED BRIDGE
SITE CE-516

HOUSE RUINS

SCOTT MILL RUIN
CE

NEWARK WEST
QUAD.

CE-238

5863 III NW
(BAY VIEW)

LITTLE

Andora

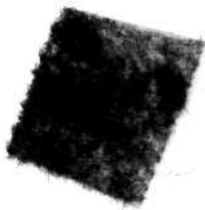
Big Elk
Chapel

Gramies

Cowe

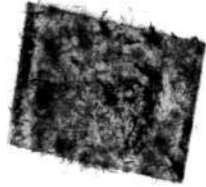


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BIG ELK CREEK COV. BR

HNE DAK



CE- 238





CE - 238

Big Elk Creek Covered Bridge
CE - 238



CE - 238



CE - 238



CE - 238



CE - 238



Big Elk Creek Covered Bridge CE -238

Near Fair Hill

South Elevation

MOB/1968

NEG - MD. Hist. Trust

4